

## Freight Transportation Profile—Arkansas

### Freight Analysis Framework

Understanding future freight activity is important for matching infrastructure supply to demand and for assessing potential investment and operational strategies. To help decisionmakers identify areas in need of capacity improvements, the U.S. Department of Transportation developed the Freight Analysis Framework (FAF), a comprehensive national data and analysis tool, including county-to-county freight flows for the truck, rail, water, and air modes. FAF also forecasts freight activity in 2010 and 2020 for each of these modes. Information about the methodology used in developing FAF is available on the Office of Freight Management and Operations' website [www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight).

The U.S. freight transportation network moves a staggering volume of goods each year. Over 15 billion tons of goods, worth over \$9 trillion, were moved in 1998. The movement of bulk goods, such as grains, coal, and ores, still comprises a large share of the tonnage moved on the U.S. freight network. However, lighter and more valuable goods, such as computers and office equipment, now make up an increasing proportion of what is moved. FAF estimates that trucks carried about 71 percent of the total tonnage and 80 percent of the total value of U.S. shipments in 1998. By 2020, the U.S. transportation system is expected to handle about 23 billion tons of cargo valued at nearly \$30 trillion.

### Arkansas

Table 1 presents information on freight shipments that have either an origin or a destination in Arkansas. As shown in the table, trucks moved a large percentage of the tonnage and value of shipments, followed by rail. Figures 1 and 2 show freight flows on the highway and rail modes.

Truck traffic is expected to grow throughout the state over the next 20 years. Much of the growth will occur in urban areas and on the Interstate highway system (Figures 3 and 4). Truck traffic moving to and from Arkansas accounted for 11 percent of the average annual daily truck traffic (AADTT) on the FAF road network. Approximately 9 percent of truck traffic involved in-state shipments, and 36 percent involved trucks traveling across the state to other markets. About 43 percent of the AADTT were not identified with a route-specific origin or destination.

Table 2 shows the top five commodity groups shipped to, from, and within Arkansas by all modes. The top commodities by weight are lumber or wood products, farm products, and food or kindred products. By value, the largest commodities are secondary traffic and food or kindred products. Secondary traffic is defined as freight flows to and from distribution centers or through intermodal facilities. No commodities are assigned to this intermediate step in the transportation process.

Table 1. Freight Shipments To, From, and Within Arkansas: 1998, 2010, and 2020

ARKANSAS	Tons (millions)			Value (billions \$)		
	1998	2010	2020	1998	2010	2020
State Total	224	335	428	151	307	512
By Mode						
Air	<1	<1	<1	6	17	34
Highway	163	253	331	133	268	445
Other <sup>a</sup>	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Rail	48	62	72	10	18	28
Water	14	20	24	2	4	6
By Destination/Market						
Domestic	218	323	410	142	283	465
International	7	12	18	10	24	47

Note: Modal numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.  
<sup>a</sup> The "Other" category includes international shipments that moved via pipeline or by an unspecified mode.

**Figure 1. Freight Flows To, From, and Within Arkansas by Truck: 1998 (tons)**



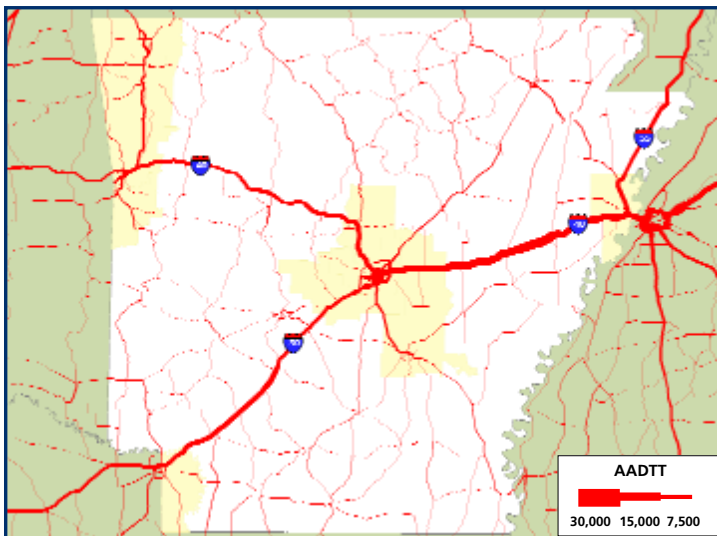
Federal Highway Administration

**Figure 2. Freight Flows To, From, and Within Arkansas by Rail: 1998 (tons)**



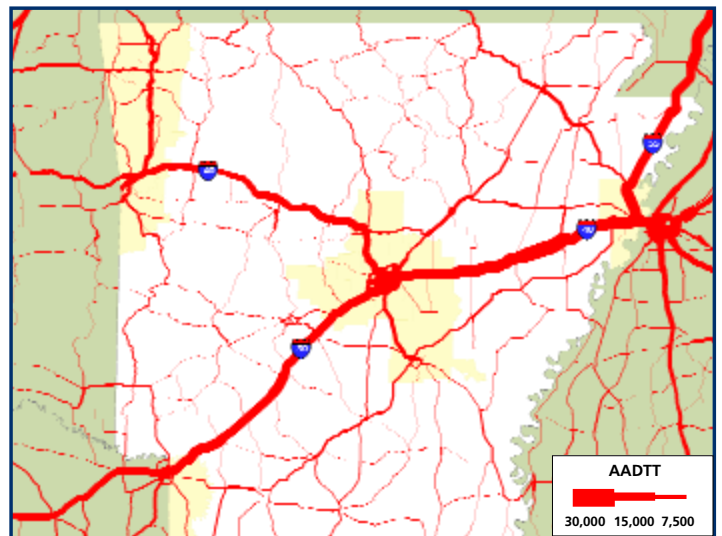
Federal Railroad Administration

**Figure 3. Estimated Average Annual Daily Truck Traffic: 1998**



Federal Highway Administration

**Figure 4. Estimated Average Annual Daily Truck Traffic: 2020**



Federal Highway Administration

**Table 2. Top Five Commodities Shipped To, From, and Within Arkansas by All Modes: 1998 and 2020**

Commodity	Tons (millions)		Commodity	Value (billions \$)	
	1998	2020		1998	2020
Lumber/Wood Products	33	69	Secondary Traffic	28	120
Farm Products	27	36	Food/Kindred Products	25	93
Food/Kindred Products	27	61	Chemicals/Allied Products	14	40
Secondary Traffic	27	78	Lumber/Wood Products	13	46
Nonmetallic Minerals	25	32	Transportation Equipment	10	21

**For More Information, Please Contact**

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A series of FAF products are available on the website noted below. FAF outputs include freight flow maps for states, modes, and gateways; detailed databases on traffic flows and commodity movements; information on the methodologies used to develop FAF; and forecast assumptions.

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) is also developing a series of state transportation profiles. For more information and to obtain a copy of the BTS reports, please call 202-366-DATA.



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